

# God's Love Perfected

## INTRO – 1 John 1

### 1 John 2:1-6 (ESV)

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.<sup>2</sup> He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.<sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.<sup>4</sup> Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,<sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:<sup>6</sup> whoever says he abides in him ought to walk/live in the same way in which he walked.

### **The Big Idea:**

*TO KNOW HIM INVOLVES A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP  
THAT TRANSFORMS PRACTICAL BEHAVIOR.*

### 1 John 2:1 (ESV)

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate (One Who will intercede for us) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

My Little children 7x / Beloved – A statement of affection and connection. A spiritual father guiding and teaching. 75-85 years old.

The first step for living in the light is to confess sin. The second step is to forsake all sin. John emphasized human sinfulness in order to challenge his readers to despise their sin and try to stay free from it. "So that you may not sin" means that you will try to stay free from sin by avoiding it, refusing it, but then also confessing it when it does happen.

Believers will sin because they have not yet been fully made

perfect/mature. John understood this. John did not want his readers to take the inevitability of sinning as an excuse to sin.

The tension between the phrases "so that you may not sin" and "if anybody does sin" forms a balance between a too harsh or too lenient view of sin. Believers have no business sinning, says John, but when they do sin . . . God has provided a way for them to be cleansed.

### **1 John 3:9-10 (ESV)**

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning

because he has been born of God.<sup>10</sup> By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Believers should not condone or excuse their sin, but they should go to the Father without fear. When believers sin and then come to the Father for forgiveness, there is *one who speaks to the Father*. The word paraclete means advocate, intercessor, one called alongside to help. This "one" is *Jesus Christ, the Righteous*.

Christ's righteousness contrasts with humanity's sinfulness. To people who are feeling guilty and condemned, John offers reassurance.

These verses help us see and understand Jesus' advocacy:

### **Matthew 1:21 (ESV)**

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Jesus Christ will speak in our defense and on our behalf.

### **Romans 8:34 (NLT)**

Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. (*His blood pleads in our defense*)

### **Hebrews 7:25 (ESV)**

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Not only is Jesus the Judge's Son, but he also has already paid the penalty. Because Jesus Christ fulfilled the law and paid sin's penalty for all who believe, he can plead for them on the basis of justice as well as mercy.

Believers cannot be punished because someone else has already taken the punishment for them.

John was no doubt aware that for the Christian who wants to make progress in the spiritual life, nothing is as demoralizing as sin. "Why did I give into that temptation again?" we lament. "I knew better!" we cry. "How could God forgive me for this?" we moan. Our enemy, Satan, cleverly uses our failures to accuse us, to fill us with guilt, and to cause us to wallow in despair. The answer for such miserable moments? Rely on Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, who appears before God as our advocate.

### **Hebrews 9:24 (ESV)**

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

Christ is our Perfect defense attorney. Having paid for all our sins and purchased our complete forgiveness, Jesus Christ is fully capable to represent us before a holy God. We need not fear judgment. Because of what Christ has done, we are "not guilty"; furthermore, we possess the very righteousness of Christ (2 Cor. 5:21)! When you pray, regard Christ as though He were by your side, discussing your situation with our Father.

### **1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)**

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus

### **1 John 2:2 (ESV)**

He is the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**Propitiation** – (Gk – hilasmos) means – a sacrifice that bears God’s wrath and turns it to favor.

**Romans 3:23-27 (ESV)**

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,<sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.<sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**1 John 4:9-12 (ESV)**

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.<sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

For the sins of the whole world does not mean that every person will be saved, for John is clear that forgiveness of sins comes only to those who repent and believe the Good News.

**John 3:18 (ESV)**

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

**John 5:24 (ESV)**

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

But Jesus sacrifice is offered and made available to everyone in the whole world. – Invitation!

## Outline

- A purpose of his letter – that we might not sin.
- Jesus stands in our defense – The Righteous One!
- God’s wrath is satisfied – Good News!
  - Perfect Justice
  - Complete cleansing
  - Illus. - Ark – purified the world/judged it’s sin, yet saved those who believed.

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<sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come (and are coming) to know him, if we keep (bear in mind, observe, practice) his commandments (teachings & precepts).<sup>4</sup> Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep (obey) his commandments is a liar (His life does not match his words – MSG), and the truth is not in him,<sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps (treasures) his word, in him truly the love of God (and for God) is perfected (Matured). By this we may know that we are in him:<sup>6</sup> whoever says he abides in him ought to walk/live (and conduct themselves) in the same way in which he walked.

## Outline

- Relational Evidence
  - Obedience
  - Lordship

- Inward Truth
  - Keeping/practicing His Word - teachings
  - God's love perfected - maturing
- Perfect Assurance
  - Say & Do
  - Live/walk like Jesus

<sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep (bear in mind, observe, practice) his commandments (teachings & precepts).

Assurance of salvation is possible, John gives several means of self-diagnosis. Here the test is ethical: do professing believers have a changed life and keep the Lord's commands? Obedience to God does NOT bring about justification (which comes by faith alone), but obedience as a pattern of life does give evidence that they have been born again.

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To walk in the same way mean – The way that led to the Cross. Believers need not and cannot repeat Jesus unique saving death, but they can reflect His love, faith, obedience and self-sacrifice. This pattern of life will give greater assurance that we are in Him.

### **John 8:30-32 (ESV)**

As he was saying these things, many believed in him. <sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide (live in it) in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you

will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

**John 15:7-12 (ESV)**

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**James 1:22 (ESV)**

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

**Luke 11:27-28 (ESV)**

As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” <sup>28</sup> But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”